THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 18th March 1954.

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The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at ten of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Ban on the Tamil drama "Panakkaran".

* 234 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Tamil drama entitled "Panakkaran" which was performed in the maidan opposite to the Kapali Talkies, Mylapore, Madras, on 13th September 1953 has been prohibited; and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Yes, Sir. The drama '*Panakkaran*' was of a scandalous and defamatory nature. It was also substantially the same as the drama 'Nalla Mudivu' and 'Murugan' the performance of which was previously prohibited by the Government."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Was the defamatory matter in relation to any individual or in relation to any institution?"

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Both against individuals and institutions."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Who is the person that has been subjected to this defamation or which is the institution that has been derided in this drama?"

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Religious minded persons were attacked. North Indians were attacked and the Prime Minister of India was also depicted in this drama in a bad manner."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know whether the political life or private life of the individuals is attacked in the drama?"

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" About the details, it may not be possible for me to give an answer now."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" If any particular portion of the drama was defamatory, why not the Government censor that portion only instead of banning the entire drama?"

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" It could not be done, because, the defamatory character pervaded throughout the whole play."

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SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know who the author is of this drama? Are not the Government going against the fundamental rights by putting a ban on this drama only, when opportunities are availed of to criticise the policies and activities of the persons mentioned above? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" The person who enacted the play was Sri M. R. Radha and party, Sir."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, the second part of my question has not been answered by the Hon. Minister."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The second part of the hon. Member's question asks for legal opinion as to whether the fundamental rights are not infringed. The Government cannot give legal opinion on any matter. It has to be decided in a Court of Law."

* **SRI R. KRISHNAN** :—" സർ, സമുദായത്തിന്റെയോ വ്യക്തികളുടെയോ യഥാർത്ഥ നടപടിക്രമങ്ങളെ ചിത്രീകരിക്കുന്നത് കുററകരമാണോ ? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" No, Sir.

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Will the Government accept it as a principle that no dramas will be prohibited unless they are obscene? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Sir, we examine the drama and when we find that there is necessity to prohibit, we prohibit it."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" The question of the hon. Member Sri K. Vinayakam as to who was the author of the drama has not been answered, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Yes, it has been answered. The Hon. Minister has already answered : ' M. R. Radha and party '."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" The Hon. Minister only said that ' the play has been enacted by Sri M. R. Radha and Party '. He has not given the name of the author of the play itself. Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to give the name of the author? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" I am sorry I am not in a position to give that answer now."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know under whose recommendation the Government banned the drama? Did they ban the drama on the recommendation of the Police? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" The Police send a report. We examine it and prohibit the drama when we consider it necessary."

SRI **M. PALANIYANDI** :—" திரைப்படங்களில், இந்திய பண்பாட்டிற்கும் கலாசாரத்திற்கும் புறம்பான, மோசமான, அமெரிக்கப்படங்கள் காண்பிக்கப்படுகின்றன. அவைகளை தடைசெய்யாமல், சமூகசீர்திருத்த நோக்கங்களுடைய நாடகங்களை தடைசெய்வது நியாயமா ? இதை அரசாங்கம் நிறுத்துமா ? "

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MR. SPEAKER :—" A separate question may be put."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" If the play was libellous, may I know why the Government did not take action under the ordinary law? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" It is the ordinary law that is enforced in this case, Sir."

Levy of single-point sales tax on sales of matches.

* 235 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation from match industrialists in the State regarding the levy of single-point sales tax on sales of matches; and

(*b*) whether the Western India Match Company, Limited, Madras, approached the State Government in this respect?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) & (*b*) No."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" மக்களுக்கு அத்தியாவசியமான பொருளாகிய தீப்பெட்டிக்கு **Banderole** ஒன்றுக்கு மூன்று பைசா வீதம் **Excise duty** விதிக்கப்படுகிறது. இத்துடன் இருமுனை விற்பனை வரி அதன் மேல் போடப்படுகிறது. இந்த வரியின் மூலம் சர்க்கார் ரூ. 2 லக்ஷம் வசூலிக்கிறார்கள். இந்த வரிகளினால், இரண்டு தம்படிக்கு விற்கவேண்டிய தீப்பெட்டிகள் 9 தம்படிக்கு விற்கப்படுகின்றன. இந்த வரிகளை சாதாரண ஏழை மக்களே கொடுப்பதால், சர்க்கார், தீப்பெட்டிக்கு ஒரு முனை விற்பனைவரி போட முன் வருவார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" It is entirely a different question. The hon. Member's main question was, ' whether any representation was received . . . ' I said, ' No '."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Is there any provision in the Sales Tax Act and the rules made thereunder for exempting certain indigenous industries which face a crisis owing to financial stringency and if so whether match factories—one of our indigenous industries—which are facing a crisis today on account of competition from foreign concerns will be exempted from the operation of this Act? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" No relaxation as such on the score of crisis alone is given by the Government."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, ..."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I will call the hon. Member afterwards. Mr. Vinayakam."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. the Minister for Revenue, will the Government be pleased to consider the case of essential articles and order the levy of a single-point tax on them? "

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Yes, Sir, they will all be considered in due time."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have allotted three hours for the consideration of the next demand. We have a number of questions to be covered today. I want to finish them quickly. I now pass on to the next question. Question No. 236."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" I want to put a supplementary question on the previous question. You said that I would be called afterwards . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Let the hon. Member give notice of a fresh question."

District Planning Board for South Arcot.

* 236 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the present District Planning Board for South Arcot was constituted; and

(*b*) whether any persons from Gingee, Tirukkoyilur, Kallakurichi and Vridhachalam taluks were members of the previous Planning Board for South Arcot?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) There is no Planning Board in this district now.

The District Planning Board that was in existence was replaced by the present Project Advisory Committee on 17th December 1953.

" (*b*) Yes, Sir.

The six members of the Madras Legislative Assembly named below were members of the previous Planning Board :—

(1) Sri A. Muthuswami, M.L.A., Tirukkoilur taluk.

(2) Sri Anandan, M.L.A., Kallakurichi taluk.

(3) Sri K. Parthasarathi, M.L.A., Kallakurichi taluk.

(4) Sri M. Kattimuthu, M.L.A., Vridhachalam taluk.

(5) Sri M. Kandaswami Padayachi, M.L.A., Tirukkoyilur taluk.

(6) Sri K. Aranganathan, M.L.A., Gingee taluk."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" At the beginning of 1953, there was a Planning Board which submitted some proposals for the sanction of the Government. At that time, no Member of the Legislative Assembly was a member of the District Planning Board. Heads of Departments, Chairmen of Municipalities and Presidents of District Boards were the only members of that Board. Then, the taluks of Gingee, Tirukkoilur, Kallakurichi and Vridhachalam did not have any Municipality. So there was no representation for these taluks in the Board. May I know why such discrimination was shown then? "

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I find even in the old District Planning Board these M.L.As. were Members."

SRI A. GOVINDASWAMY NAYAGAR :—" மற்ற சட்டசபை உறுப்பினர்களை இந்த Planning board-ல் சேர்க்காமல் இருப்பதற்கு காரணம் என்ன ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, all the Members of the Legislature and all the Members of Parliament are included in this Committee."

SRI R. S. ARUMUGAM :—" சில ஜில்லாக்களில், District planning board, அல்லது Project advisory committee அமைக்காமல் இருப்பதற்கு காரணம் என்ன ? குறிப்பாக நெல்லை ஜில்லாவில் ஒரு கமிட்டியும் ஏன் அமைக்கவில்லை? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The main question relates to South Arcot district. The hon. Member may put a separate question.

" இந்தக் கேள்வி தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லாவைப்பற்றியது. கனம் அங்கத்தினர் வேண்டுமானால் வேறு ஒரு கேள்வி போடவும்."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, is it not a fact that the Projects are confined only to a portion of the district and if so, how can a Committee that is required to advise on the Project replace and do the functions of the District Planning Board which was abolished? " 10-10 a.m.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, the Project Advisory Committee is so constituted that it will cover the entire district."

SRI A. GOVINDASWAMY NAYAGAR :—" எல்லா சட்டசபை உறுப்பினர்களும் Planning board-ல் அங்கத்தினர்களாக இருந்தால், கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் ஏன் குறிப்பாக ஐந்து, ஆறு பேர்கள் மட்டும் அவருடைய பதிலில் குறிப்பிட்டார் ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, probably the hon. Member has not looked into the question that I have answered. It refers to certain taluks and I mentioned the names of the M.L.As. of those taluks who were on the Board."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, the Hon. the Minister said that the Project Advisory Committee had replaced the District Planning Board. Am I to understand that the Project Advisory Committee has jurisdiction to discuss matters in the entire district and make recommendations for the whole district? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" That is so, Sir."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, is there any planning to be done in South Arcot which is bereft of soil fertility? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, whatever be the features of South Arcot district, there is yet so much to be planned."

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SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Sir, what is the disturbance to peace that has happened in South Arcot, I would like to know. In the matter of peace and tranquillity, the hon. Member speaks like the Home Minister of India."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, I am afraid the hon. Member (Sri V. Balakrishnan) said something else."

(Some hon. Members got up in their seats and tried to speak.)

MR. SPEAKER :—" Order, Order. I shall call the next question."

" *Vaigai Scheme*."

* 237 *Q*.—SRI P. CHELLATHURAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state to what extent Thiruvadanai taluk in Ramanathapuram district will be benefited by the proposed " Vaigai Scheme "?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The exact scope of the Vaigai Reservoir Project is yet to be settled. The whole question is being examined."

SRI G. GOVINDAN :—" கிழக்கு ராமனாதபுரம் ஜில்லாவிற்கு இந்த வைகை நீர்ப்பாசன திட்டத்தால் ஏதாவது சாதகம் ஏற்படுகிறதா ? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, the hon. Member has not understood my reply. The whole question is under examination. I am not now in a position to give a definite reply to what he wants."

SRI P. CHELLATHURAI :—" ராமனாதபுரம், மதுரை ஜில்லாக்களும் இந்த வைகை திட்டத்தினால் பலன் அடையும் என்று மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்களா ?"

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Nothing can be said now, Sir. It is under examination."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The Hon. Minister says the whole thing is under examination."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" How long will this examination continue, Sir? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Well, a lot of data and other details have to be collected and investigated. Does the hon. Member want me to give a definition to the word ' examination ' ? "

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" I want to know the approximate time, Sir."

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I cannot say the approximate time, because it is under examination and technical details have to be worked out."